DARK
DC
MANSION
ALL NEW STORIES
BEST IN COMICS
NOW ONLY
20c
FORBIDDEN TALES OF DARK MANSION
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NO. 6
AUG.
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WHAT WAS HIS STRANGE POWER? READ ABOUT...
THE HUMAN BLOODHOUND!

IS THERE A WORLD BEYOND THE ONE WE KNOW?

IN THIS ISSUE OF DARK MANSIONS, WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE THE WORLD OF THE UNKNOWN. WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED WITH THE STORY OF A MAN WHO POSSESSED A STRANGE POWER, WE'LL GO ON TO THE NEXT PUZZLING, FROM-THE-BEYOND TALE...

THE PSYCHIC-BLOOD-HOUND

WE'VE FOUND HER!! --- LIKE HE SAID WE WOULD --- IN A SHALLOW GRAVE!!
HERE IS THE STRANGE, TRUE STORY OF KARL BURKEL* WHO TIME AND AGAIN CRACKED THE BARRIERS OF MYSTERY! DID HIS BRAIN CONTAIN A CHAMBER LOCKED TO ALL OTHER MEN!?
AND THERE WAS NO SHRED OF EVIDENCE THAT POINTED TO THIS SPECIFIC AREA!!

IT'S INCREDIBLE, CHIEF! WE USE A MIND READER FOR DETECTIVE WORK! -- AND HE CRACKS A CASE WITHOUT CLUES!!
HE'S MORE THAN A MIND READER!! HOWEVER, I'M NOT QUALIFIED TO PUT A LABEL ON HIM!! BUT, WITH HIS HELP WE'LL GET THIS POOR GIRL'S KILLER!!

* ONLY HIS NAME HAS BEEN CHANGED.

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MIND-BENDING TALES

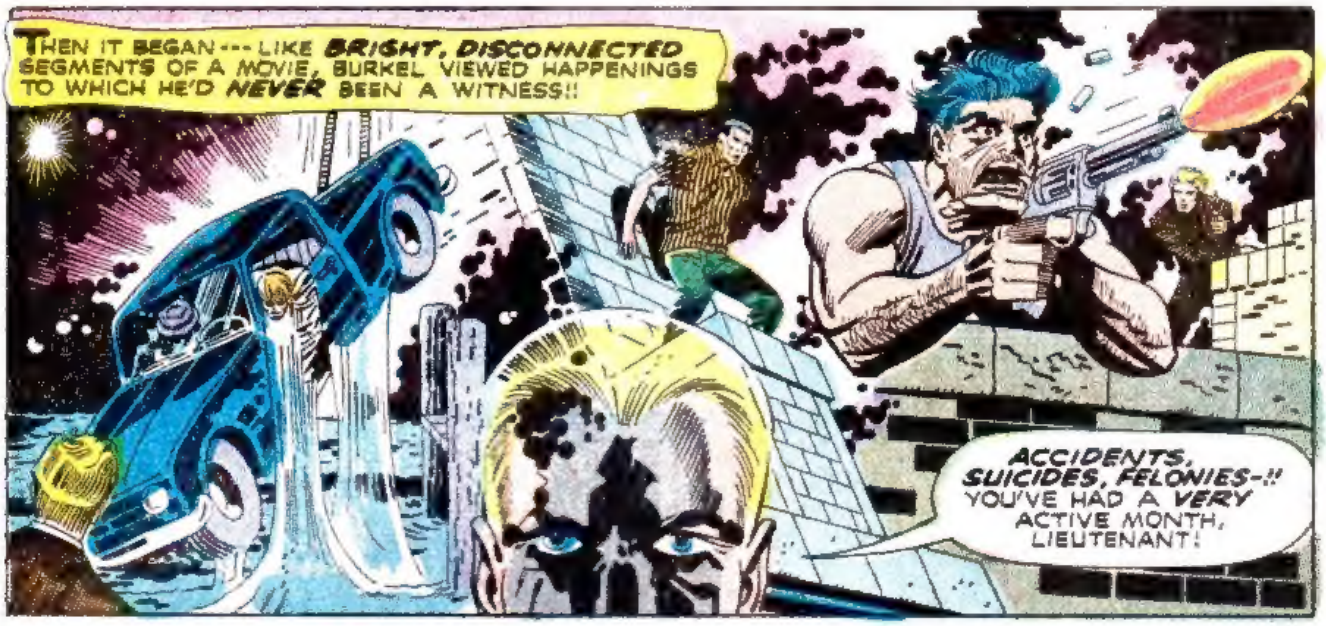
THE STRANGE MAN IN QUESTION WAS KARL BURKEL, AND HE WAS WAITING IN THE POLICE CHIEF'S OFFICE WHEN THE HUNTERS RETURNED FROM THEIR GRIM TASK!!
YOU WERE RIGHT, BURKEL!! YOU MISSED BY FIFTY YARDS-- BUT WE DID FIND THE GIRL--
--BURIED IN THOSE DESERTED SAND DUNES!! HOW TERRIBLE!! WHAT CAN ONE SAY AT SUCH A MOMENT?!!

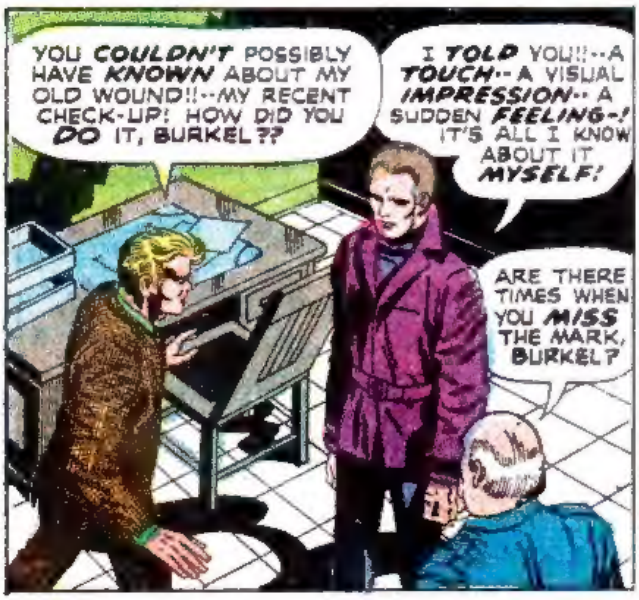
IT'S PRECISELY AT THE TIME THAT I'M PROVEN CORRECT THAT MY STRANGE POWER BECOMES A FEARSOME BURDEN!!
YOU'VE GIVEN US A "CORPUS DELICTI" WITH CLUES TO A PRIME SUSPECT! I'D SAY IT WAS A JOB WELL DONE!!
EVEN IF WE DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT!

BY TOUCH, LIEUTENANT!! BY SIMPLE CONTACT I CAN SOMEHOW GET VISUAL FLASHES OF EVENTS THAT SURROUND MY SUBJECT!!
HEY! I DIDN'T INTEND TO BECOME A GUINEA PIG FOR ONE OF YOUR DEMONSTRATIONS !!!

BURKEL'S HAND WAS FIRM ON HIS SUBJECT'S SHOULDER!-- HIS LARGE EYES BECAME EVEN ROUNDER!! THEY WERE SEEING--- SEEING WHAT--??
WHY, LIEUTENANT? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU FEAR??-- YES!! THERE IS!! I'M BEGINNING TO RECEIVE-- --IMPRESSIONS!!
2.

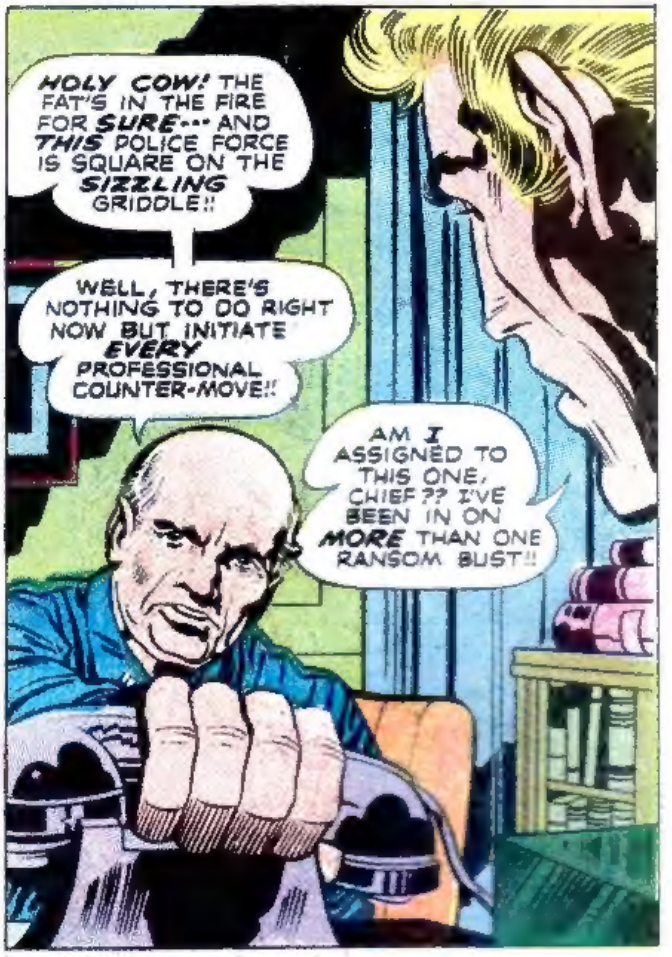
DARK MANSIONS


THEN IT BEGAN--- LIKE BRIGHT, DISCONNECTED SEGMENTS OF A MOVIE, BURKEL VIEWED HAPPENINGS TO WHICH HE'D NEVER BEEN A WITNESS!!
ACCIDENTS, SUICIDES, FELONIES-!! YOU'VE HAD A VERY ACTIVE MONTH, LIEUTENANT!


YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE KNOWN ABOUT MY OLD WOUND!!--MY RECENT CHECK-UP! HOW DID YOU DO IT, BURKEL??
I TOLD YOU!!--A TOUCH-- A VISUAL IMPRESSION-- A SUDDEN FEELING-! IT'S ALL I KNOW ABOUT IT MYSELF!
ARE THERE TIMES WHEN YOU MISS THE MARK, BURKEL?

YES! MANY TIMES! BUT MY HITS FAR OUTNUMBER MY MISSES!! WHEN CONDITIONS ARE RIGHT, I'M PRETTY ACCURATE!!
RRRRING
THE PHONE! I WONDER WHAT BEEF THEY'VE PASSED ON TO ME NOW!!

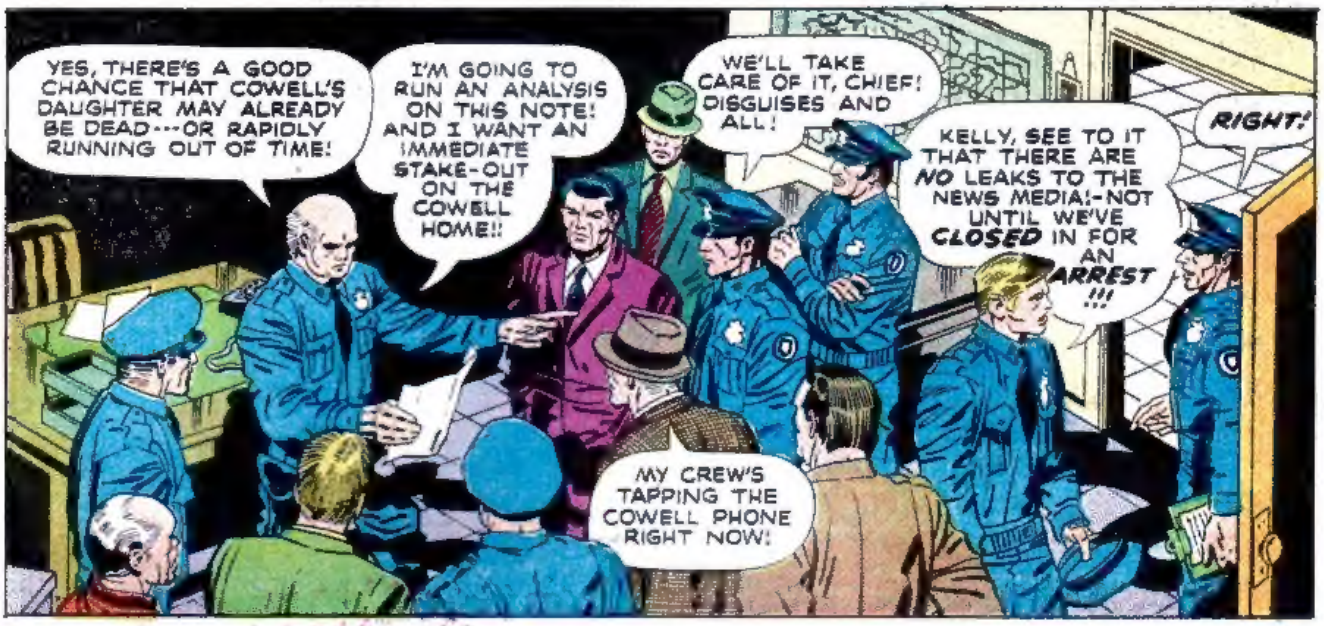
KARL BURKEL WAS PREPARING TO LEAVE THE POLICE CHIEF'S OFFICE WHEN THE FIRST NEWS OF WHAT WOULD PROVE TO BE A MOST SENSATIONAL CRIME CAME OVER THE WIRE!!!
HELLO!--WHAT!!?? WHO DID YOU SAY WAS KIDNAPPED?? BENTON COWELL'S DAUGHTER!!
BENTON COWELL!! HE'S THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BUSINESSMAN IN THIS CITY!!

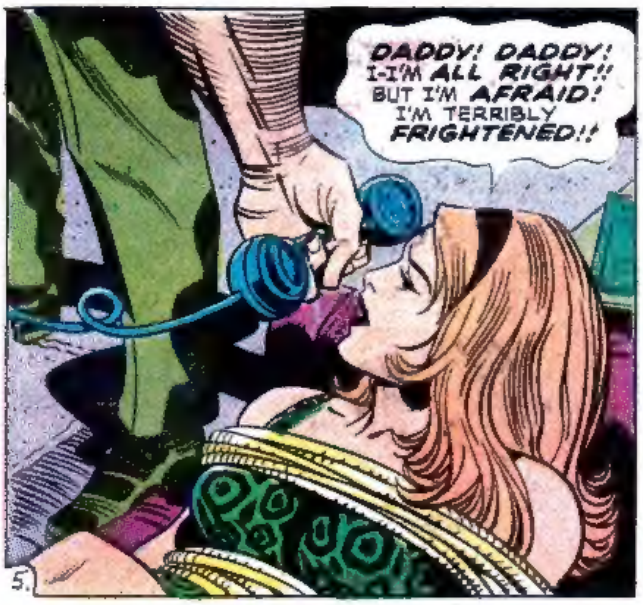

HOLY COW! THE FAT'S IN THE FIRE FOR SURE--- AND THIS POLICE FORCE IS SQUARE ON THE SIZZLING GRIDDLE!!
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING TO DO RIGHT NOW BUT INITIATE EVERY PROFESSIONAL COUNTER-MOVE!!
AM I ASSIGNED TO THIS ONE, CHIEF?? I'VE BEEN IN ON MORE THAN ONE RANSOM BUST!!

FIRST THINGS FIRST! BURKEL, WE'RE IN DEBT TO THAT SPOOKY BRAIN OF YOURS!! WE'D HAVE EVENTUALLY BROKEN THE "SAND DUNE" CASE, BUT YOU MAY HAVE SAVED US MONTHS OF WORK!!
I WAS GLAD TO VOLUNTEER, CHIEF! YOU WERE MOST KIND NOT TO TREAT MY OFFER AS A PUBLICITY STUNT--OR SIDE-SHOW ACT!

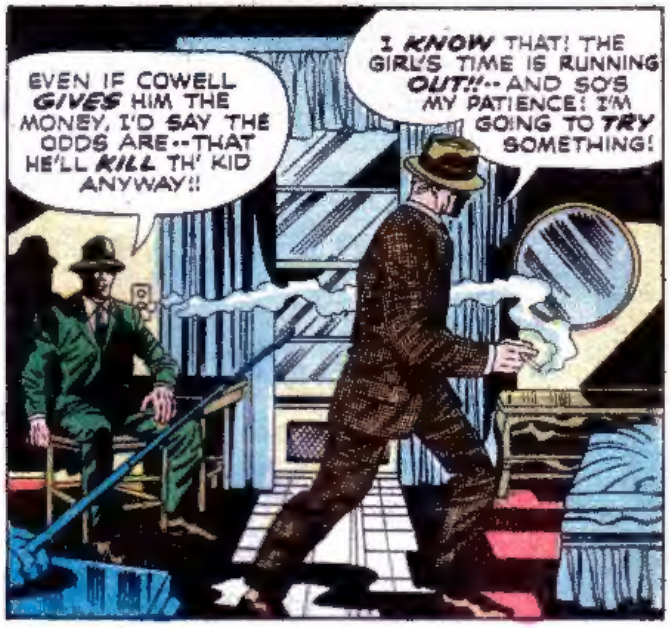
AFTER BURKEL HAD GONE, THE GRIM AND UGLY WORK BEGAN!! THE POLICE FOUND THEMSELVES ENMESHED IN A GAME WITH CRIMINALS OF AN UNUSUALLY BRUTAL VARIETY!!
THIS IS THE KIDNAP NOTE RECEIVED BY BENTON COWELL! IT WAS DELIVERED TO THIS DEPARTMENT BY MESSENGER!!
I CAN SEE WHY YOU WANT A LOW PROFILE ON THIS CASE, CHIEF! THIS NOTE HAS "SICK" AND "DANGEROUS" WRITTEN ALL OVER IT!
Wait for call! Tell cops and we kill her! Kill! Kill! Kill!
4

DARK MANSIONS

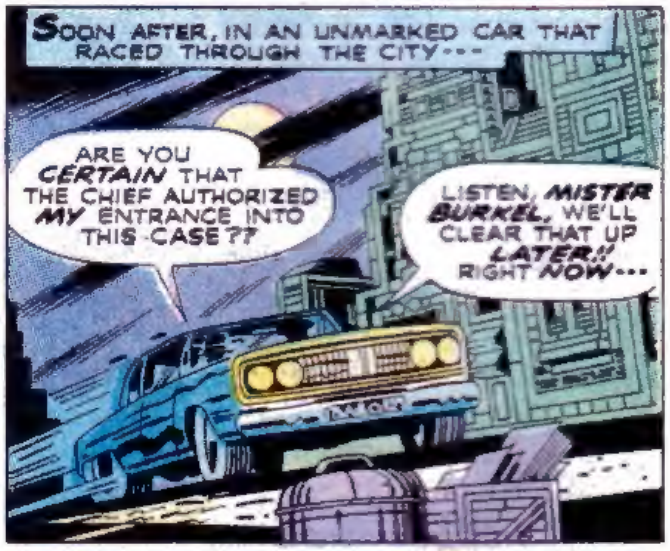

YES, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THAT COWELL'S DAUGHTER MAY ALREADY BE DEAD---OR RAPIDLY RUNNING OUT OF TIME!
I'M GOING TO RUN AN ANALYSIS ON THIS NOTE! AND I WANT AN IMMEDIATE STAKE-OUT ON THE COWELL HOME!!
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, CHIEF! DISGUISES AND ALL!
KELLY, SEE TO IT THAT THERE ARE NO LEAKS TO THE NEWS MEDIA!-NOT UNTIL WE'VE CLOSED IN FOR AN ARREST !!!
RIGHT!
MY CREW'S TAPPING THE COWELL PHONE RIGHT NOW!

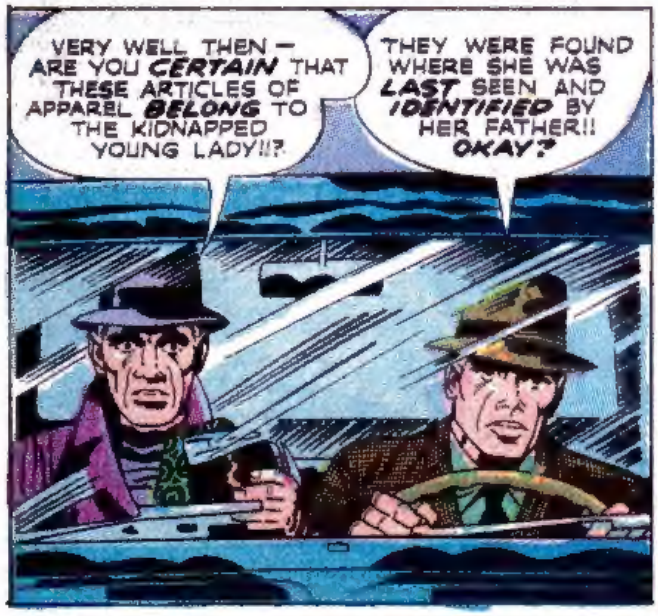


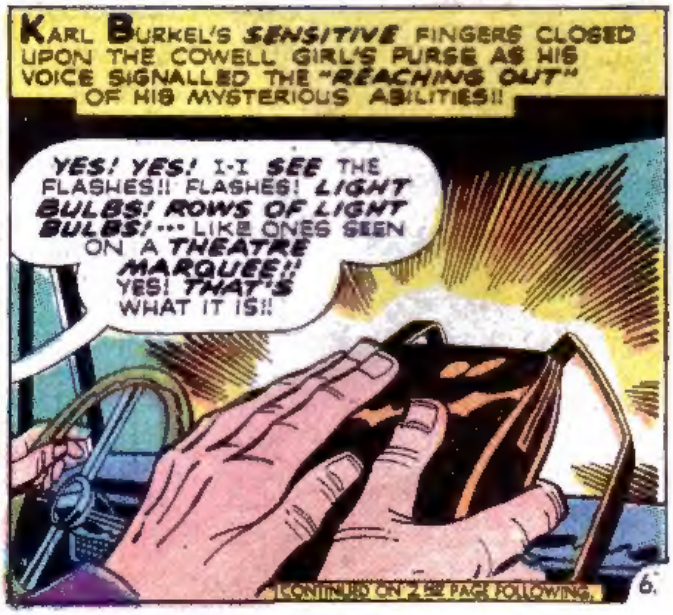
SOMEWHERE IN A BUILDING FACING THE COWELL HOME, DETECTIVES LISTENED IN ON THE CONVERSATION!! -- LISTENED AND FELT THE URGENT NEED FOR ACTION!!
LISTEN TO THIS GUY!! HE'S A PSYCHOTIC IF I EVER HEARD ONE!
YEAH! A BONA-FIDE NUT!
NOW GET ON DA BALL, COWELL! GET DA DOUGH! DA MONEY! I WANT DAT MONEY!


EVEN IF COWELL GIVES HIM THE MONEY, I'D SAY THE ODDS ARE -- THAT HE'LL KILL TH' KID ANYWAY!!
I KNOW THAT! THE GIRL'S TIME IS RUNNING OUT!! -- AND SO'S MY PATIENCE! I'M GOING TO TRY SOMETHING!

HEY! HOLD ON! YOU CAN'T LEAVE YOUR POST!! WE'RE ALL DOING THE BEST WE CAN!!
YOU MEAN EVERYTHING BUT TRY A LONG SHOT! WELL, THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO!!


SOON AFTER, IN AN UNMARKED CAR THAT RACED THROUGH THE CITY---
ARE YOU CERTAIN THAT THE CHIEF AUTHORIZED MY ENTRANCE INTO THIS CASE??
LISTEN, MISTER BURKEL, WE'LL CLEAR THAT UP LATER!! RIGHT NOW...


VERY WELL THEN — ARE YOU CERTAIN THAT THESE ARTICLES OF APPAREL BELONG TO THE KIDNAPPED YOUNG LADY!!?
THEY WERE FOUND WHERE SHE WAS LAST SEEN AND IDENTIFIED BY HER FATHER!! OKAY?


KARL BURKEL'S SENSITIVE FINGERS CLOSED UPON THE COWELL GIRL'S PURSE AS HIS VOICE SIGNALLED THE "REACHING OUT" OF HIS MYSTERIOUS ABILITIES!!
YES! YES! I-I SEE THE FLASHES!! FLASHES! LIGHT BULBS! ROWS OF LIGHT BULBS!... LIKE ONES SEEN ON A THEATRE MARQUEE!! YES! THAT'S WHAT IT IS!!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

MIND-BENDING TALES

IN THE *RECESSES* OF KARL BURKEL'S MIND, HIS *ADDITIONAL* FACULTY WAS OPERATING WITH *AMAZING* CLARITY! HE DESCRIBED IN DETAIL THE PERTINENT LANDMARKS ON THE STREET HE SAW! HE *LOOKED* INTO THE FACES OF PASSERS-BY··· *READ* THE SIGNS ON STORES··· BUT SOMEHOW, THE NAME OF THE STREET *ELUDED* HIM!! BUT THERE *WAS* THE MOVIE THEATRE!! --AND BURKEL COULD READILY MAKE OUT THE *NAME* OF THE MOVIE WHICH WAS BEING SHOWN THAT SUSPENSE-FILLED NIGHT!!

I *CAN'T* SEE THE NAME OF THE THEATRE! BUT THE NAME OF THE PICTURE IS --"A *PIECE OF THE ACTION*!!"

TONIGHT A PIECE OF THE ACTION

NOW SHOWING A PIECE OF THE ACTION

AIR CONDITIONED

MEANWHILE, IN A SUPERMARKET, THE NIGHT'S DRAMA WAS REACHING ITS CLIMAX!!

THIS IS IT! IF COWELL FOLLOWED *ORDERS*, HE'S HIDDEN DA DOUGH IN *DIS* STORE!--IN DA SPOT WHERE I *WANTED* IT!!

14 CANNED SOUPS 14

WHEN I PICK UP DA DOUGH, I'LL GO *BACK* TO DA HIDEOUT AND *FINISH* DA KID BEFORE I BLOW!! SHE'S DA ONLY ONE WHO CAN *IDENTIFY* ME!

HERE IT IS!··· RIGHT WHERE IT *SHOULD* BE!! GOOD BOY, COWELL!! NOW I'LL GIVE *YOU* A PRESENT--!

CORN FLAKES

BUT NO SOONER WAS THE "*PICK-UP*" MADE··· WHEN THINGS *SUDDENLY* BEGAN TO *HAPPEN*!!

STOP RIGHT THERE! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!!

OH!

COPS!! I'VE BEEN *AMBUSHED*!!

DARK MANSIONS

BACK OFF, YOU FUZZ!---OR I'LL CUT UP DIS WOMAN!! COME ON! BACK OFF! I MEAN IT!!
YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE!! IF YOU'RE SMART YOU'LL GIVE YOURSELF UP WITHOUT A FUSS!!
I CAN GET HIM FROM THE SIDE!! --BEFORE HE HARMS THAT WOMAN!
CAREFUL!

THERE'S YOUR KIDNAPPER, MISTER COWELL!--AND THERE'S THE RANSOM MONEY!
THAT'S IT ALL RIGHT! BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD WORK OUT THIS WAY!

I KNOW HE'S DEAD, MISTER COWELL! BUT WE HAD TO GET HIM!--OR HE MIGHT HAVE KILLED THAT WOMAN!
BUT WHAT ABOUT MY DAUGHTER!!!?? NOW WILL WE FIND OUT WHERE SHE IS??!! HE'LL NEVER TELL US---NOW!!
SEARCH THE BODY, MEN! LOOK FOR INDENTIFICATION CARDS ---FOR HOTEL KEYS!--- FOR ANY CLUE!!
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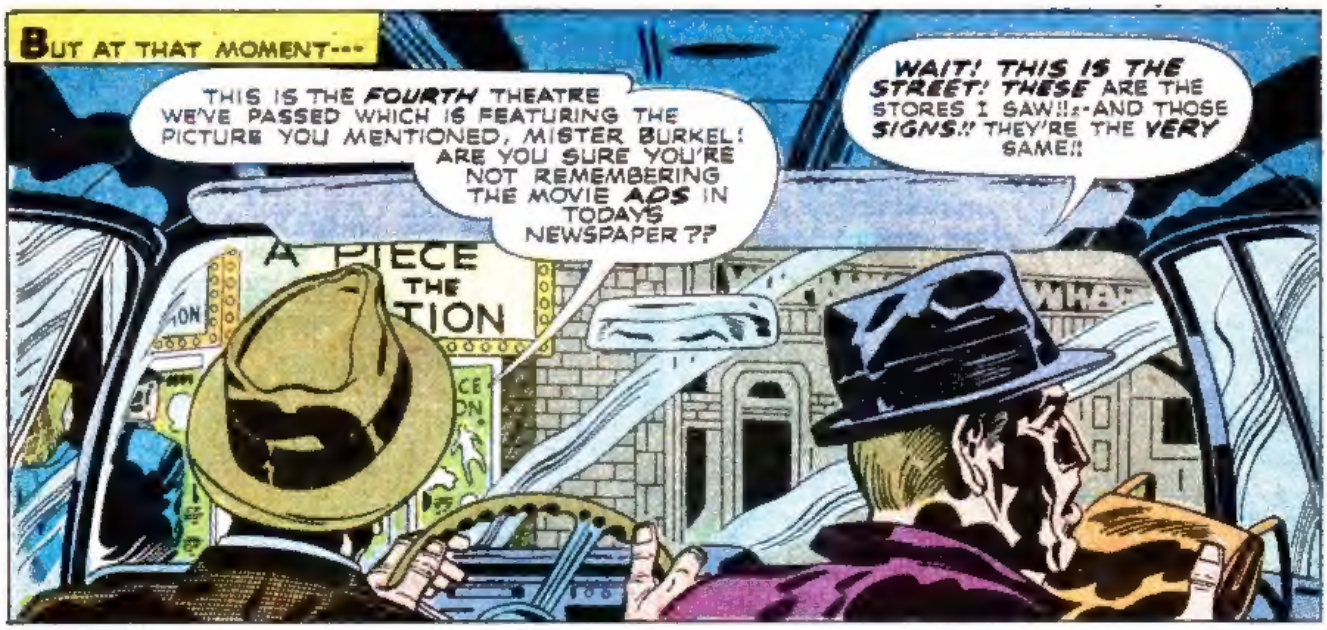
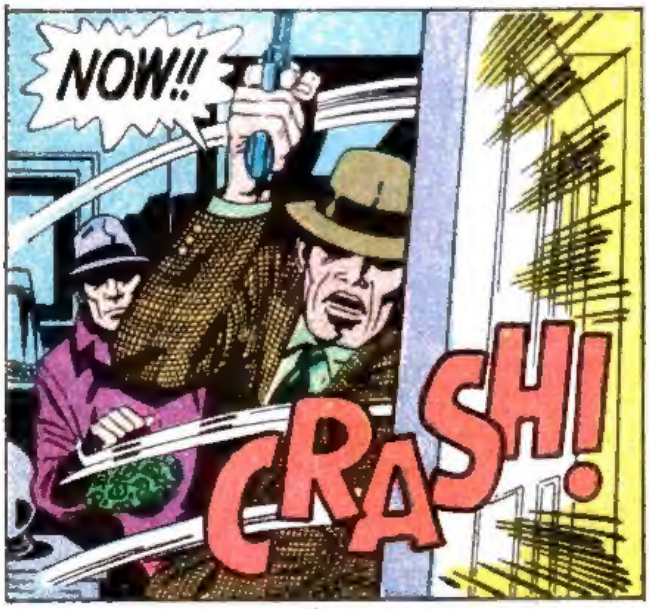
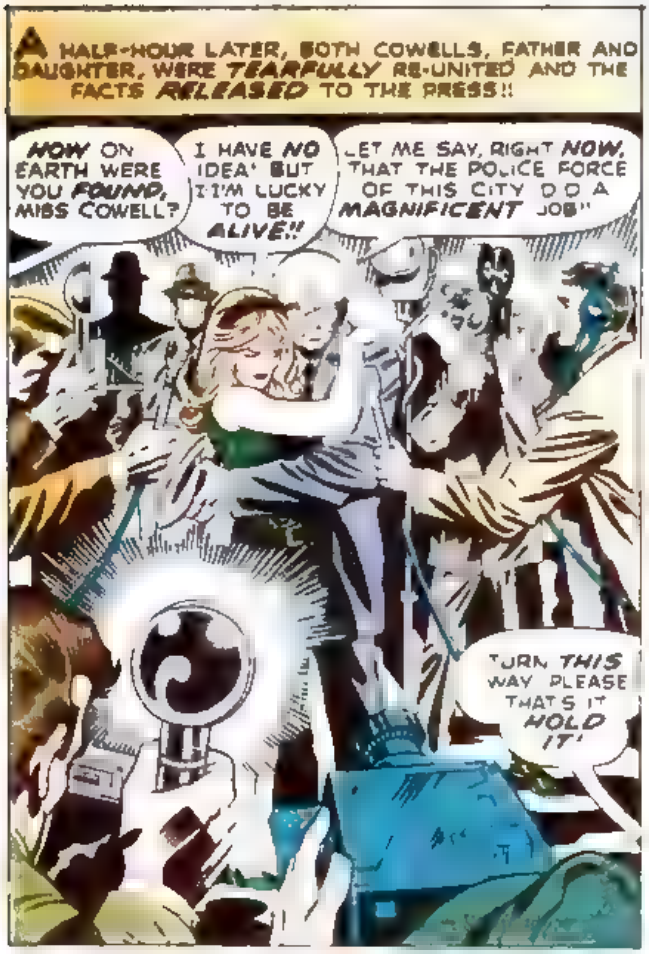
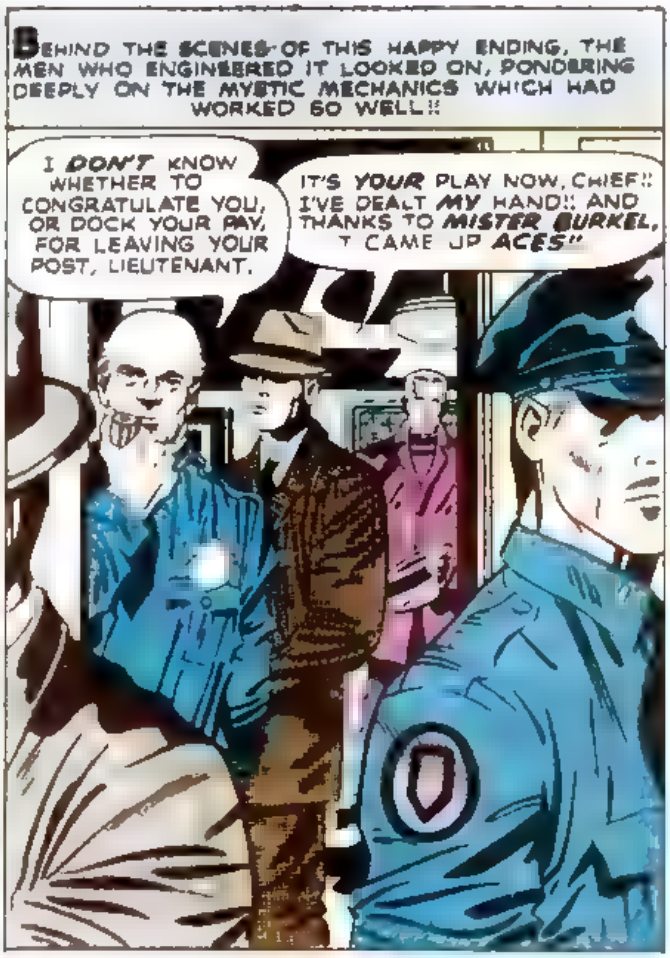
DARK MANSIONS


BUT AT THAT MOMENT---
THIS IS THE FOURTH THEATRE WE'VE PASSED WHICH IS FEATURING THE PICTURE YOU MENTIONED, MISTER BURKEL! ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT REMEMBERING THE MOVIE ADS IN TODAYS NEWSPAPER ??
WAIT! THIS IS THE STREET! THESE ARE THE STORES I SAW!!--AND THOSE SIGNS!! THEY'RE THE VERY SAME!!

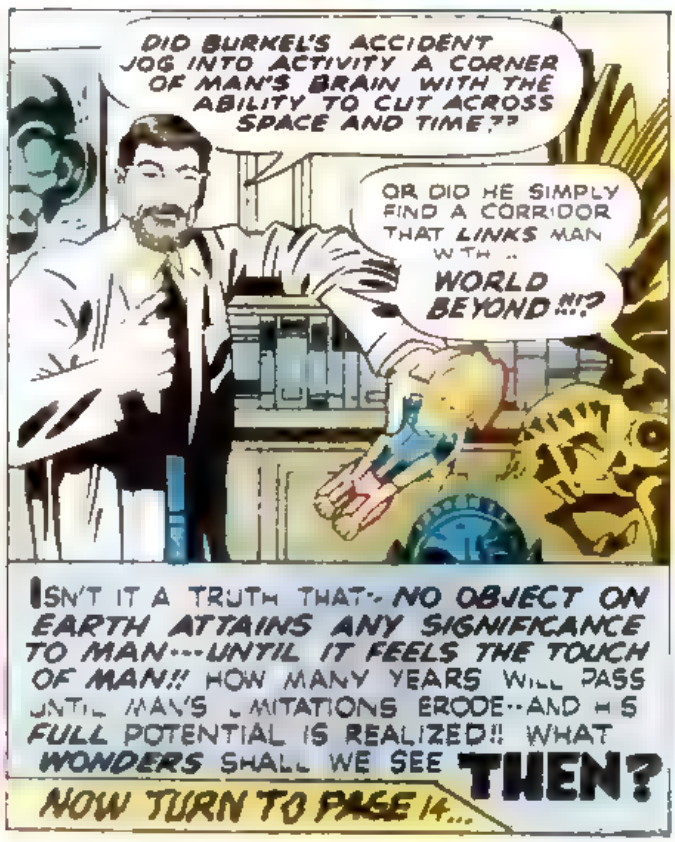
AND THIS IS THE BUILDING IN WHICH THE COWELL GIRL IS BEING HELD! I GET A STRONG IMPRESSION FROM TOUCHING HER HAT!!
IF SHE'S HERE, LET'S HOPE SHE'S STILL ALIVE!!



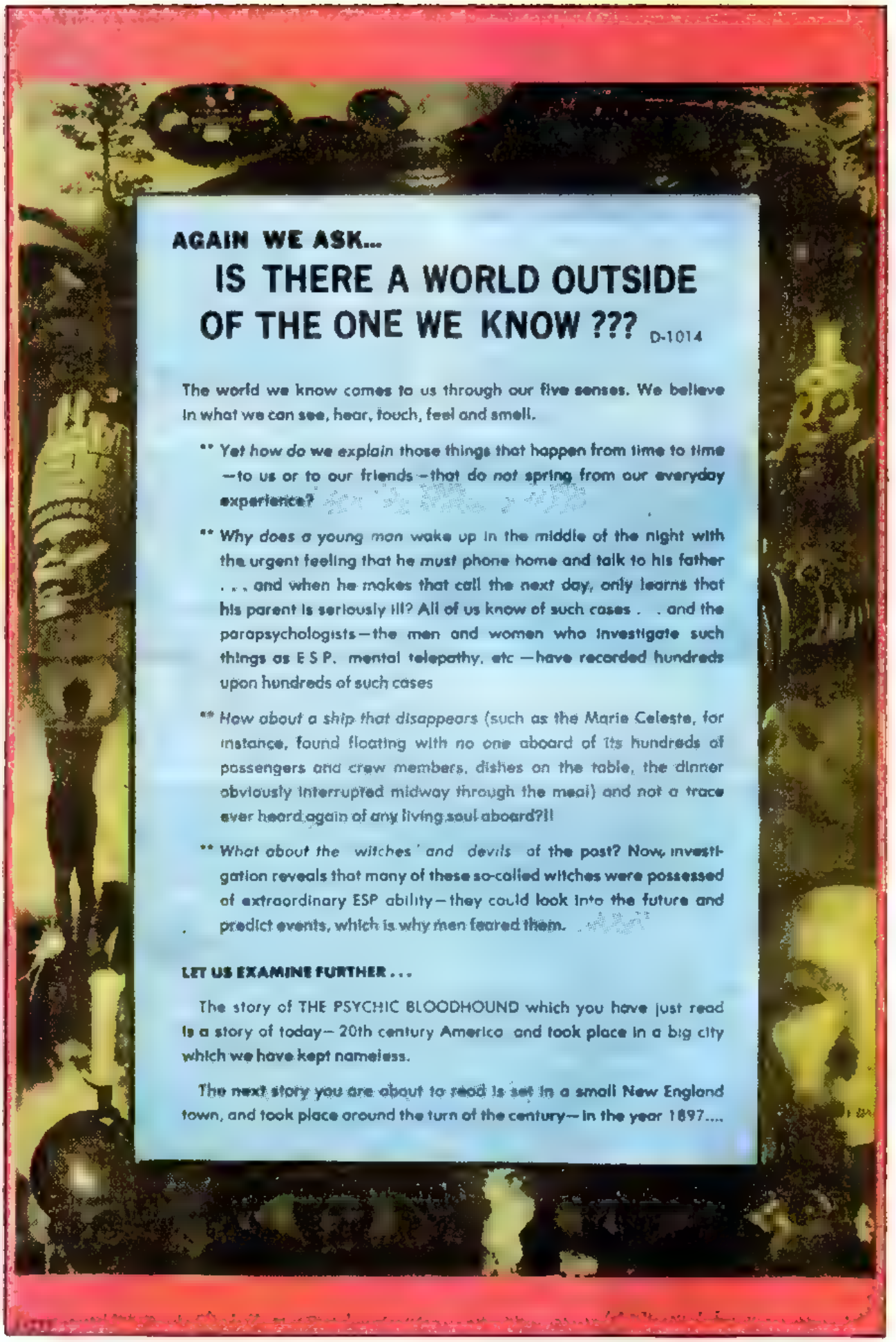

A HALF-HOUR LATER, BOTH COWELLS, FATHER AND DAUGHTER, WERE TEARFULLY RE-UNITED AND THE FACTS RELEASED TO THE PRESS!!
NOW ON EARTH WERE YOU FOUND, MISS COWELL?
I HAVE NO IDEA! BUT I'M LUCKY TO BE ALIVE!!
LET ME SAY, RIGHT NOW, THAT THE POLICE FORCE OF THIS CITY DID A MAGNIFICENT JOB!"
TURN THIS WAY PLEASE THAT'S IT HOLD IT!


BEHIND THE SCENES OF THIS HAPPY ENDING, THE MEN WHO ENGINEERED IT LOOKED ON, PONDERING DEEPLY ON THE MYSTIC MECHANICS WHICH HAD WORKED SO WELL!!
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO CONGRATULATE YOU, OR DOCK YOUR PAY, FOR LEAVING YOUR POST, LIEUTENANT.
IT'S YOUR PLAY NOW, CHIEF!! I'VE DEALT MY HAND!! AND THANKS TO MISTER BURKEL, I CAME UP ACES!!"

HOW ARE YOU ABLE TO DO THIS KIND OF THING, BURKEL? WERE YOU BORN WITH THIS EXTRA FACULTY??
NO! WHEN MY RIFLE BACKFIRED DURING COMBAT ACTION IN WORLD WAR II, I ALMOST LOST MY SIGHT!--BUT I DID GAIN SOMETHING--- SOMETHING STRANGE- WHICH I CAN'T DENY


DID BURKEL'S ACCIDENT JOG INTO ACTIVITY A CORNER OF MAN'S BRAIN WITH THE ABILITY TO CUT ACROSS SPACE AND TIME??
OR DID HE SIMPLY FIND A CORRIDOR THAT LINKS MAN WITH A WORLD BEYOND!!!?
ISN'T IT A TRUTH THAT-- NO OBJECT ON EARTH ATTAINS ANY SIGNIFICANCE TO MAN---UNTIL IT FEELS THE TOUCH OF MAN!! HOW MANY YEARS WILL PASS UNTIL MAN'S LIMITATIONS ERODE--AND HIS FULL POTENTIAL IS REALIZED!! WHAT WONDERS SHALL WE SEE THEN?

NOW TURN TO PAGE 14...



AGAIN WE ASK...

IS THERE A WORLD OUTSIDE OF THE ONE WE KNOW ???

D-1014

The world we know comes to us through our five senses. We believe in what we can see, hear, touch, feel and smell.

** *Yet how do we explain* those things that happen from time to time —to us or to our friends—that do *not* spring from our everyday experience?

** *Why does a young man* wake up in the middle of the night with the urgent feeling that he *must* phone home and talk to his father . . . and when he makes that call the next day, only learns that his parent is seriously ill? All of us know of such cases . . and the parapsychologists—the men and women who investigate such things as E S P, mental telepathy, etc —have recorded hundreds upon hundreds of such cases

** *How about a ship that disappears* (such as the Marie Celeste, for instance, found floating with no one aboard of its hundreds of passengers and crew members, dishes on the table, the dinner obviously interrupted midway through the meal) and not a trace ever heard again of any living soul aboard?!!

** *What about the witches' and devils* of the past? Now, investigation reveals that many of these so-called witches were possessed of extraordinary ESP ability—they could look into the future and predict events, which is why men feared them.

LET US EXAMINE FURTHER . . .

The story of THE PSYCHIC BLOODHOUND which you have just read is a story of today—20th century America and took place in a big city which we have kept nameless.

The next story you are about to read is set in a small New England town, and took place around the turn of the century—in the year 1897....

WHO WAS SADIE LENNON? WAS PAUL HAWKINS?

JUST AN ORDINARY WOMAN-- OR SOMETHING LESS THAN A WOMAN?

JUST AN ORDINARY MAN-- OR SOMETHING MORE THAN HUMAN?

THE FACTS OF THIS STORY ARE CONTAINED IN A DIARY FOUND IN A CHURCHYARD, IN A LOCKED STONE CRYPT, BROKEN OPEN BY ORDER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL SOME SIX MONTHS AGO.

IS THE DIARY AUTHENTIC? DID THE INCIDENT IT DESCRIBES ACTUALLY HAPPEN? READ ON AND YOU'LL SEE!

DIARY OF A DEAD WOMAN!

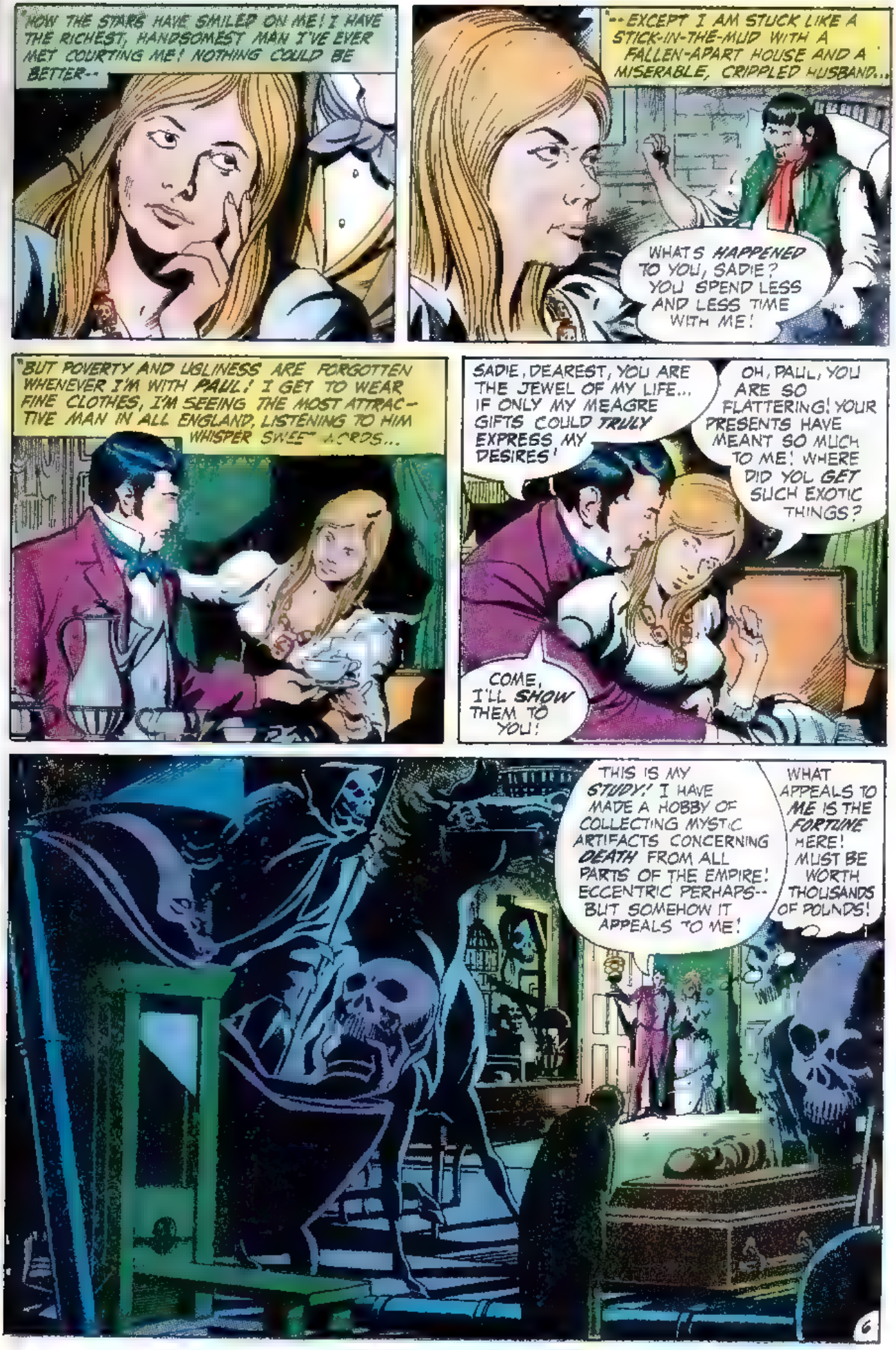
G-755

THIS WRETCHED STORM—IT'S LIKE A DEVIL'S BREW! I'M SOAKED CLEAR THROUGH TO THE SKIN! I--
KRAKK
EEEK
OHHHH .
OHHH MY ANKLE! I'M STED TERR'BLY!
HELLP!
THERES NOBODY WHO CAN HEAR ME-- EXCEPT THE DEAD.. AND THEY CAN'T HELP!
HALLO!
I HEARD YOUR CRY...MAY I ASSIST YOU ?
CERTAINLY...
"I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES! I NEVER SAW THE LIKES OF A MAN TH'S HANDSOME IN ALL MY LIFE!
2

"OH, DIARY-HE'S SO DISTINCTIVE... WELL-BRED.
I WAS TAKING A SHORTCUT TO GET HOME FROM MY WORK WHEN I TRIPPED AND HURT MY ANKLE!
PERMIT ME TO HELP YOU, MISS! MY MANSION IS CLOSE-BY.
GRACIOUS! NO MAN THIS GRAND HAS TREATED ME LIKE THIS!
HERE'S MY HOUSE! MY SERVANTS ARE ALL ON LEAVE, BUT IT WILL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SHELTER!
THE...THE HAWKINS' PLACE!? YOU MUST BE MR. HAWKINS!
IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT--PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE!
GOODNESS! I CAN TELL HE'S TAKING A LIKING TO ME!
MY, WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE HOME! MR. HAWKINS MUST BE EXTREMELY WEALTHY TO OWN ALL THIS!
IT IS NOT OFTEN I AM PRIVILEGED TO ENTERTAIN SUCH A CHARMING LADY! PLEASE PERMIT ME TO GIVE YOU THIS TOKEN OF MY ESTEEM!
WHY--
3

HE TREATED ME LIKE A REAL LADY-- NOBODY'S EVER DONE THAT BEFORE!
"PAUL IS EVERYTHING A WOMAN COULD WANT. MY HEART SOARS LIKE IT HAS NEVER SOARED BEFORE! I FEEL LIKE A QUEEN!
"BUT WHEN I GOT HOME, JOHN WAS WAITING, ANGRY...
YOU'RE LATE, SADIE! THE DINNER-HOUR HAS PASSED AND YOU HAVE YET TO PREPARE THE MEAL!
ISN'T IT ENOUGH THAT I HAVE TO SWEAT TWELVE HOURS A DAY TO SUPPORT BOTH OF US? ISN'T IT ENOUGH TO BARELY KEEP THE PANTRY WITH FOOD ON MY SLAVE-WAGES?
EVER SINCE YOUR ACCIDENT I HAVE TO WAIT ON YOU HAND AND FOOT! YOU DARE TO COMPLAIN? CAN'T YOU TREAT A LADY WITH RESPECT?
WHY'D I EVER MARRY YOU?
"BUT EVEN THE INDUSTRIAL SWEAT SHOP I MUST WORK IN CAN BE FORGOTTEN IF ONE REMEMBERS JUST ONCE BEING TREATED LIKE A LADY! IMAGINE MY DELIGHT TODAY.
WHY, MR. HAWKINS. WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THESE PARTS OF TOWN?
I HAVE COME TO ASK YOU TO DINE WITH ME, IF YOU WILL!
AND, PLEASE, CALL ME PAUL!
4

"I, SADIE LENNON, WAS BEING ESCORTED TO THE BEST PART OF TOWN!
EVERYONE DEFERS TO HIM--HE MUST BE VERY NFLLENTIAL!
"AND I WAS TREATED LIKE ROYALTY! AND TAKEN TO...
ONLY THE FINEST DINNER DRESS WILL DO FOR YOU, DEAR'
MHY, PAUL-- I VE NEVER--
"THE FINEST RESTAURANT WITH THE FINEST FOOD! ME!
PAUL IS SC FREE WITH H S MONEY' HON' GLAD I AM I HAVEN' TOLD H Y ABOUT JOHN'
"WHEN WE RETURNED TO HIS MANSION..
PAUL--A NECKLACE' THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO REPAY YOU--
JUST A BRIEF KISS FROM MY LADY'S LIPS WILL SUFFICE--
"AND WHEN HIS LIPS TOUCHED MINE- I FELT THE FLAME OF A ROARING FIRE RUN THROUGH MY BODY!
JOHN NEVER KISSED ME LIKE THAT!
5

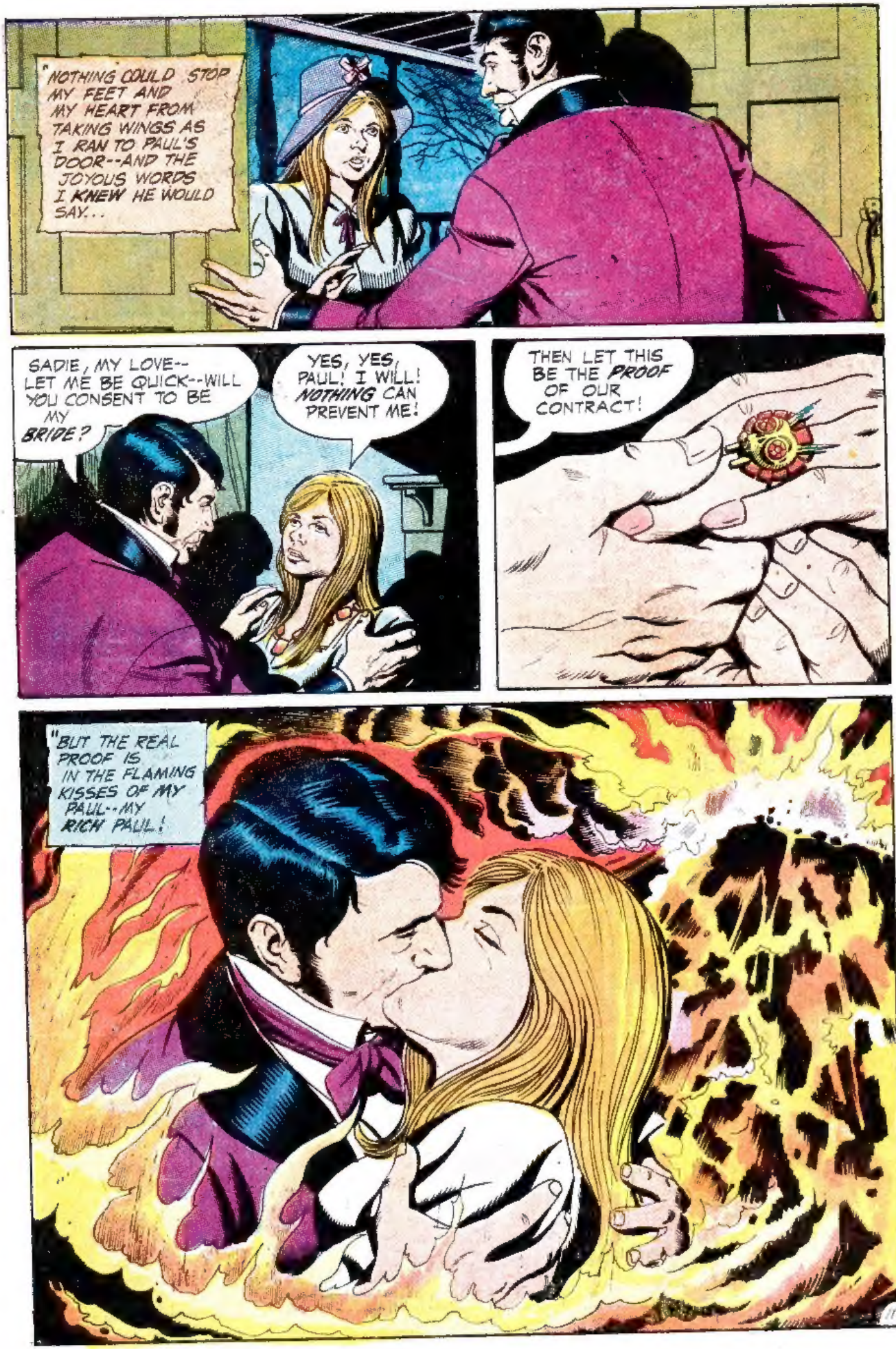

"HOW THE STARS HAVE SMILED ON ME! I HAVE THE RICHEST, HANDSOMEST MAN I'VE EVER MET COURTING ME! NOTHING COULD BE BETTER--
--EXCEPT I AM STUCK LIKE A STICK-IN-THE-MUD WITH A FALLEN-APART HOUSE AND A MISERABLE, CRIPPLED HUSBAND...
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU, SADIE? YOU SPEND LESS AND LESS TIME WITH ME!
"BUT POVERTY AND UGLINESS ARE FORGOTTEN WHENEVER I'M WITH PAUL! I GET TO WEAR FINE CLOTHES, I'M SEEING THE MOST ATTRACTIVE MAN IN ALL ENGLAND, LISTENING TO HIM WHISPER SWEET WORDS...
SADIE, DEAREST, YOU ARE THE JEWEL OF MY LIFE... IF ONLY MY MEAGRE GIFTS COULD TRULY EXPRESS MY DESIRES!
OH, PAUL, YOU ARE SO FLATTERING! YOUR PRESENTS HAVE MEANT SO MUCH TO ME! WHERE DID YOU GET SUCH EXOTIC THINGS?
COME, I'LL SHOW THEM TO YOU!
THIS IS MY STUDY! I HAVE MADE A HOBBY OF COLLECTING MYSTIC ARTIFACTS CONCERNING DEATH FROM ALL PARTS OF THE EMPIRE! ECCENTRIC PERHAPS-- BUT SOMEHOW IT APPEALS TO ME!
WHAT APPEALS TO ME IS THE FORTUNE HERE! MUST BE WORTH THOUSANDS OF POUNDS!
6

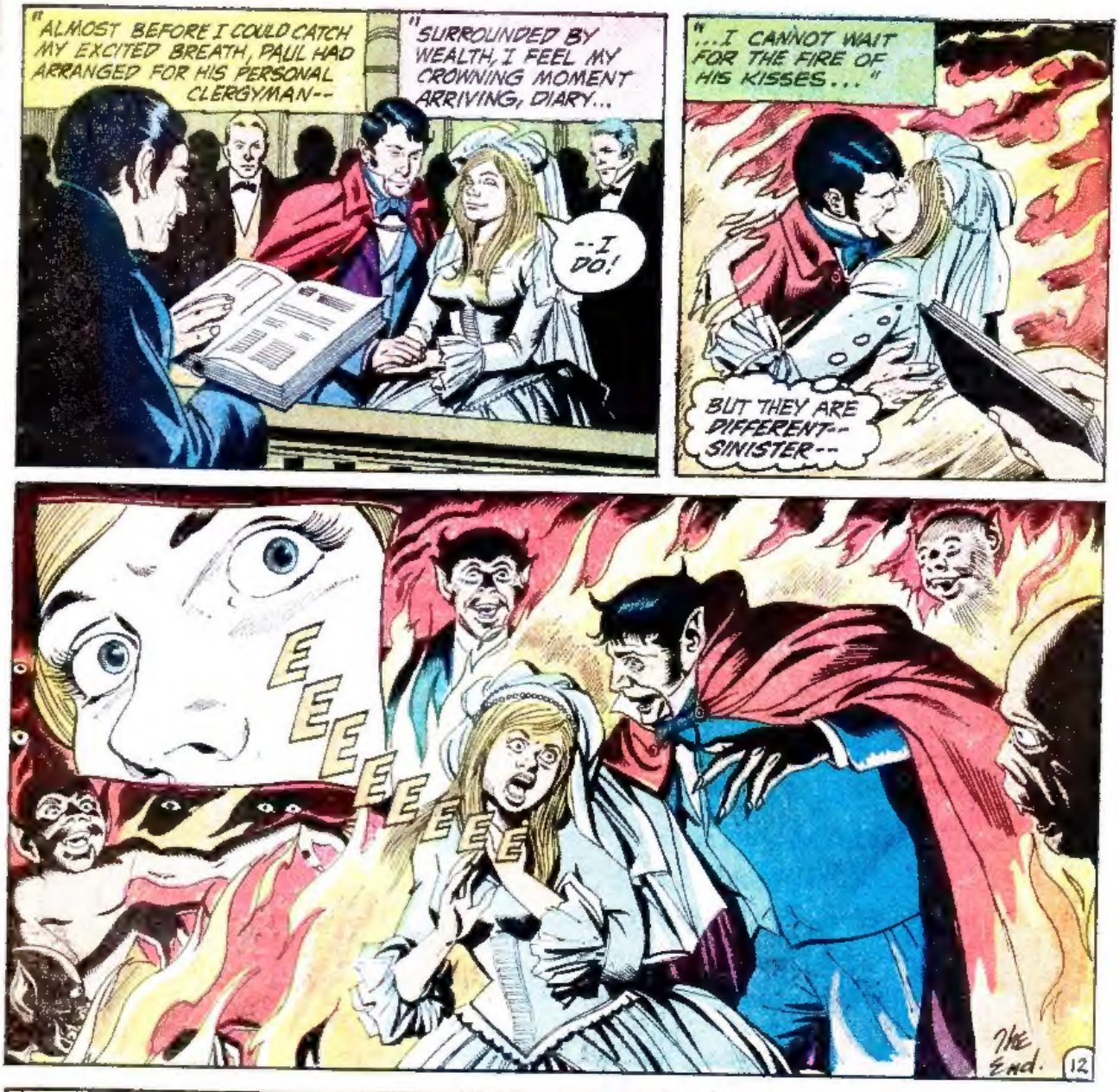
YOU MAY BROWSE AROUND IF YOU WISH--I'LL GO TO PREPARE SOME MORE TEA!
SO MANY THINGS--EVERY ONE PRICELESS!
BUT THEY'RE SO...STRANGE!
IF THERE WERE ONLY A WAY TO MAKE ALL THIS MINE--I'D NEVER HAVE TO WORRY AGAIN!
IF ONLY I WERE YOUNGER--BEFORE I MARRIED JOHN!
WHA--WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?
THIS TH-THING HAS MADE ME TWENTY AGAIN!
OH, NO--PAUL'S HERE AGAIN! HE CAN'T SEE WHAT I'VE DONE!
I WANT TO BE NORMAL AGAIN!
IT WORKED! IT'S REALLY MAGIC! MUSTN'T LET PAUL SUSPECT--
PAUL, THIS IS FASCINATING--SO QUAINT!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
7

I RAN RIGHT INTO HIS ARMS! I FELT A FIRE LIKE THE FACTORY'S FURNACE ON HIS LIPS! PASSION RAN RIGHT INTO MY BLOOD...
THEN, FROM THE HEIGHTS OF ECSTASY, I SANK TO THE BRINK OF DESPAIR AS I RETURNED HOME...
KEEP YOUR DIRTY HANDS OFF ME, JOHN! I'LL NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
YOU -- NOT GIVE YOUR OWN HUSBAND YOUR AFFECTION, WOMAN!?
DO YOU THINK I HAVE CLOSED MY EYES TO YOUR FINE NEW CLOTHES, YOUR FINE NEW JEWELRY, YOUR FINE NEW GENTEEL LANGUAGE! DO YOU BELIEVE ME TOO CRIPPLED TO SEE MY WIFE IS BEING UNFAITHFUL!
DOG!
"PAUL IS MY ONLY ANSWER--MY ONLY REASON FOR LIVING! I RAN TO HIS HOUSE, DIARY..
MY HUSBAND MUST NOT SHACKLE MY LIFE LIKE THIS!
NOT WHEN I CAN HAVE ALL OF PAUL'S WEALTH AND HONOR!
8

WHY SADIE - WHY HAVE YOU RETURNED AT THIS HOUR OF THE MORNING?
PAUL I HAVE LEFT MY PURSE HERE. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME
PURSE? I DO NOT REMEMBER IT -- BUT IF IT MEANS SO MUCH TO YOU I'LL SEARCH UPSTAIRS FOR IT!
OH, THANK YOU, PAUL! I REALLY DESIRE IT
"EVEN A RICH MAN CAN BE FOOLED! IT WAS EASY TO SLIP INTO THE STUDY...
MAGIC WILL SOLVE MY PROBLEMS! I CAN FEEL MY FUTURE HAPPINESS SWELLING WITHIN ME ALREADY
I CANNOT LOCATE YOUR PURSE, SADIE: BUT IF YOU WISH - I CAN HAVE MEN COME AND MAKE A MORE THOROUGH SEARCH
PAUL YOU ARE SO GENEROUS! BUT DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF! I MUST RETURN SOON!
I'LL BE ABLE TO AFFORD A HUNDRED PURSES, SOON!
RETURN SOON MY LOVE -- THERE IS AN IMPORTANT MATTER TO DISCUSS BETWEEN US!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN DEAREST BUT THERE IS A SMALL HOUSEHOLD PROBLEM I MUST CLEAR UP FIRST
VERY WELL -- BUT BE QUICK MY LOVE
17

WITH THE MAGIC TALISMAN, I RUSHED HOME-TO JOHN...
I SHAN'T HAVE TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF YOU MUCH LONGER!
YOUR EYES GLOW LIKE AN EVIL WITCH, WOMAN! WHAT SPELL ARE YOU CASTING?
THIS MAGIC MY WRETCHED HUSBAND!
WITH THIS MAGIC I CAN MAKE MYSELF YOUNG AGAIN--I CAN LEAVE YOU AND THE WORLD WILL NEVER KNOW!
NO!
I WON'T ALLOW YOU--THE DEVIL TAKE YOU--
UHHH
JOHN MADE IT EASY--WHEN HE TOUCHED THE MAGIC OBJECT I MERELY WISHED HIM TO BE OLDER! TOO OLD TO LIVE!
I'M FREE.
I'M FREE!
6


"NOTHING COULD STOP MY FEET AND MY HEART FROM TAKING WINGS AS I RAN TO PAUL'S DOOR--AND THE JOYOUS WORDS I KNEW HE WOULD SAY...
SADIE, MY LOVE-- LET ME BE QUICK--WILL YOU CONSENT TO BE MY BRIDE?
YES, YES, PAUL! I WILL! NOTHING CAN PREVENT ME!
THEN LET THIS BE THE PROOF OF OUR CONTRACT!
"BUT THE REAL PROOF IS IN THE FLAMING KISSES OF MY PAUL--MY RICH PAUL!


"ALMOST BEFORE I COULD CATCH MY EXCITED BREATH, PAUL HAD ARRANGED FOR HIS PERSONAL CLERGYMAN--
"SURROUNDED BY WEALTH, I FEEL MY CROWNING MOMENT ARRIVING, DIARY...
--I DO!
"...I CANNOT WAIT FOR THE FIRE OF HIS KISSES..."
BUT THEY ARE DIFFERENT-- SINISTER--
EEEEEEEEEE
THE END.
12

THERE THE DIARY ENDS, BUT THE TOWN HALL RECORDS REVEAL THAT ON THE NIGHT OF SADIE LENNON'S MARRIAGE TO PAUL HAWKINS, THE HAWKINS MANSION BURNED DOWN TO THE GROUND, WITH SADIE'S SCREAMS ECHOING IN THE NIGHT.

OTHER FRAGMENTS — LETTERS, NEWSPAPER ITEMS — CONTAIN ACCOUNTS OF NEIGHBORS, RELATIVES AND THE MINISTER HIMSELF (WHO LEFT DIRECTLY AFTER THE CEREMONY) THAT INSIDE THE MANSION STRANGE EVENTS TOOK PLACE THAT NIGHT. THESE WITNESSES SPOKE OF "WEIRD, UNSIGHTLY GUESTS..." "THE ***DEVILISH*** LOOK ON MR. HAWKINS' FACE", "A WILD CEREMONIAL FEAST", "A SACRIFICIAL RITE..."

WHATEVER... THESE ARE THE FACTS. WEIGH THEM CAREFULLY... AND PERHAPS THE PROPER PIECES WILL FALL INTO PLACE FOR YOU!

HAPPY SLEUTHING! AND IF YOU WANT TO LET US IN ON ***YOUR*** VERDICT, WRITE US AT:

KEY OF THE ***DARK MANSION***
NATL. PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS
909 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

REINCARNATION: Fact or Fancy?

THE STRANGE STORY OF DEVI

D-523

It was a hot, dusty day in a tiny village in India. A little girl named Devi was playing with her friends. Suddenly she began talking about a big city, far away. She spoke of its winding streets and beautiful temples, and of a large, white house. She described the house in great detail and said that it belonged to her . . . and her *husband!*

Her playmates laughed at Devi—they knew she had never been out of the village. How could she know about a city she had never seen? Devi told the story to her parents, who were poor weavers, and they smiled and shook their heads. "What childish nonsense is this?" they asked.

But the little girl insisted that she was speaking the truth.

"I've just started remembering how my life was in the old days," she insisted. In a very grown-up voice she told of her marriage to a kind merchant named Mohan. She cried and said she yearned to see him again.

Her parents did not know what to do. Their daughter would talk of nothing else night and day.

"If you take me to the city, I'll make you rich," she insisted. "My husband was a wealthy man."

The little girl kept up her pleas. Finally her parents borrowed some money and took Devi to the city.

When they arrived there, the parents were confused by the crowds and afraid of the traffic. Not Devi. She seemed to know exactly where she was. She immediately led them through the winding streets, past lovely temples, to a large white house.

"I am home," she said, and knocked at the door.

A sad-eyed gentleman opened the door.

"Mohan!" cried Devi. She flung her arms around the surprised man.

"How do you know my name, child?" he asked, looking bewildered.

"What's going on?" he asked Devi's parents.

The parents were speechless. They could only shrug.

Overflowing with happiness, Devi asked Mohan how his life had been.

"I once was prosperous, but since my wife died—before you were even born—things have gone badly," he replied. "If only she were alive now. I miss her so much."

"But *I* am your wife!" said Devi. She told him many secrets Mohan had only shared with his departed wife.

He shook his head in amazement. "This cannot be."

"Before my last life was over, I buried a treasure here," Devi said. "I can prove to you that I am your wife."

She went into Mohan's garden and dug up a chest filled with gold coins and jewelry set with precious stones. There was enough wealth to restore Mohan to prosperity and to keep Devi and her parents from poverty.

Devi's parents and Mohan at last believed the little girl. As soon as Devi was old enough to get married, Mohan wed his bride from beyond the grave.

Many experts were called in to study Devi's remarkable case. They concluded that there was no ordinary or normal way she could have known about Mohan and his house in the city—let alone the buried treasure that only his dead wife knew about.

This is only one of many puzzling stories showing evidence of reincarnation. The idea that after the death of the body, the soul returns to earth reborn in a *new* body is an ancient one, and is part of many religions throughout the world. These people believe that if you are good in this life, then you will be reborn into a better life the next time around.

Edgar Cayce, a famous American clairvoyant, said that in a trance he was able to see into people's past lives. If a young doctor came to Cayce and said that he was unhappy in medical work, Cayce would go into a trance and perhaps learn that in the young man's last life he had been an excellent musician. He would then suggest that the doctor take up music instead.

Often Cayce's advice seemed to bring people more in touch with their natural abilities, which he felt lived on with the soul after death. He once went into a trance to give advice to an unusually beautiful young woman and saw that in her past life she had been badly burned and scarred. She had spent that life helping other handicapped people and had never married. In her present life she had been rewarded by her beauty . . . and several marriage proposals!

Some scoff at all this and say there is no evidence. Yet there are many, many stories like Devi's that bridge from beyond the grave to this world.

What do *you* think about reincarnation?